ABSRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In a data transfer method and apparatus of the present invention, multiple data frames are received from a preceding node of a network of communication units, and the received data frames are routed to a next node of the network. It is detected whether each of the multiple data frames is addressed to another communication unit. It is detected whether the data frames that are detected as being addressed to another communication unit contain identical messages. The data frames that are detected as containing different destinations and identical messages are assembled into an integrated data frame, so that the integrated data frame is transmitted to the next node. A selected next-node equipment identifier is supplied, which indicates a selected next-node communication unit of the network that receives the integrated data frame. When the selected next-node equipment identifier and the integrated data frame are received, the integrated data frame is transmitted to the selected next-node communication unit via the network.